

NIGHT EDITION

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The EVENING EDITION

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The World.

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EXTRA

PRICE ONE CENT.

GUESTS FLEE IN TERROR FROM FIRE IN MURRAY HILL HOTEL

SEARCH IS BEGUN FOR THEATRICAL FIRE-TRAPS HERE

First Official Act of Fire Commissioner Hayes Is an Order That Every Playhouse in New York Must Be Thoroughly Inspected by Experienced Men.

CHICAGO BLAMES ELECTRICIAN, WHO IS HELD FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

A rigid investigation of conditions in the theatres of New York has been ordered by Fire Commissioner Hayes. Shocked like everybody else at the tragedy of Chicago, he has decided that the responsibility for the safety of the New York theatre-going public is reposed more in him than in any other one man in the city, and shortly after he was sworn in by Mayor McClellan to-day he gave this statement to The Evening World:

"There must be no delay in considering this matter. It will be the first thing we will do. It would be criminal to delay when perhaps we are in danger of such a catastrophe as all Chicago is bowed down with. I have already made my plan for the first steps to be taken in this direction.

TO INVESTIGATE AT ONCE.

"I ordered Deputy Chief Kruger, a man of experience and observation, to visit every theatre in the city, closely examining them in front, back of the stage, up in the flies and down in the cellars and make notes of where they fail to come up to the requirements of safety which plain humanity demands.

"In this work I will have the earnest co-operation of the Health Commissioner and the Building Commissioner. With us three working together I do not believe that anything can escape us that we ought to notice and improve.

"Where I find there are no exits I shall have them cut through at once. I don't care what the cost, what the trouble, there must be exits in every theatre, and the number of them must be measured by the seating capacity of each house. Then again the sanitary end must be looked out for. This has a direct bearing on fires, and I have the assurance of Health Commissioner Darlington that he will do all in his power to see that the law is lived up to in every theatre in the city.

THEATRE-GOING PUBLIC MUST BE PROTECTED

"Every precaution that the human mind can conceive must be taken to protect the public in the theatres, and what is even more important to my mind, they must be taken at once. There must not be a lot of talk, a lot of delay. There must be action. Managers who persist in evading the laws must be punished. There must be firemen in all the theatres to see that they do, and there must be more firemen on duty during performances than there ever have been before. I think, too, that a little more leeway for the Fire Department in dealing with these delinquents would be a good thing.

"Mayor McClellan is very much interested in this subject, and I am going to consult him to-morrow on ways and means of making not only theatres, but hotels and public buildings absolutely safe from such horrors as that which happened in Chicago."

CHICAGO DEATH ROLL NOW PLACED AT 582.

Rigid Investigation by the Coroner Leads to the Arrest of the Chief Electrician of the Iroquois Theatre.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—The first important arrest in connection with the enormous loss of life in the Iroquois Theatre fire was made to-day, when Archibald Bernard, the chief electrician of the theatre, was taken into custody on a charge of manslaughter.

Bernard was questioned at Police Headquarters for two hours before a formal charge was made against him. He denied responsibility for the faulty electrical apparatus, which was primarily responsible for the conflagration.

The hearing of those who were arrested last night was to-day set for Saturday morning. Bonds were placed at \$5,000 in each case. The charge in each case is manslaughter.

Acting for Klaw & Erlanger, Benjamin Stevens stated in court that if permission were granted for the removal of members of the company from Chicago he would guarantee their return when wanted for the inquest. He said that many of the theatrical people were destitute and lacked clothing. The Magistrate made no comment except to intimate that the matter was in the hands of the Coroner and the police.

Chief of Police O'Neill to-day sent detectives to summon Manager Will J. Davis, of the Iroquois Theatre, to Police Headquarters.

"I want to question him," Chief O'Neill said when asked the reason for the summons. "I am not arresting him. If I thought that Managers Will J. Davis and Barry L. Powers would leave Chicago I would lock them up."

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TAMMANY HALL IN POWER AGAIN

Control of All the City Departments Formally Turned Over by the Low Administration to Dominant Wigwam.

SPEECHES BY FORMER MAYOR AND MCCLELLAN.

They Exchange Compliments and Tears Glisten in Mr. Low's Eyes as He Takes His Departure from City Hall.

The government of the City of New York passed from the hands of Reform to the hands of Tammany to-day and, if the people of the city had an interest in the transfer they did not show it. A big detail of policemen sent to City Hall Park to take care of the crowds had nothing to do. When Seth Low was figuratively handing the keys of the city to George B. McClellan not over 200 persons gathered outside the City Hall and most of these were persons bound to or from the Brooklyn Bridge on affairs of their own.

There were gorgeous decorations inside the City Hall. Janitor Marty Keese, to whom all administrations look alike, had men at work from the rising of the sun and the walls and floors fairly shone. The corridors were banked with flowers and flags. The big room on the southwest corner of the building looked extremely inviting to the man who is to occupy it for two years and a day to a degree to the man who has occupied it for two years.

Crowd in Park.

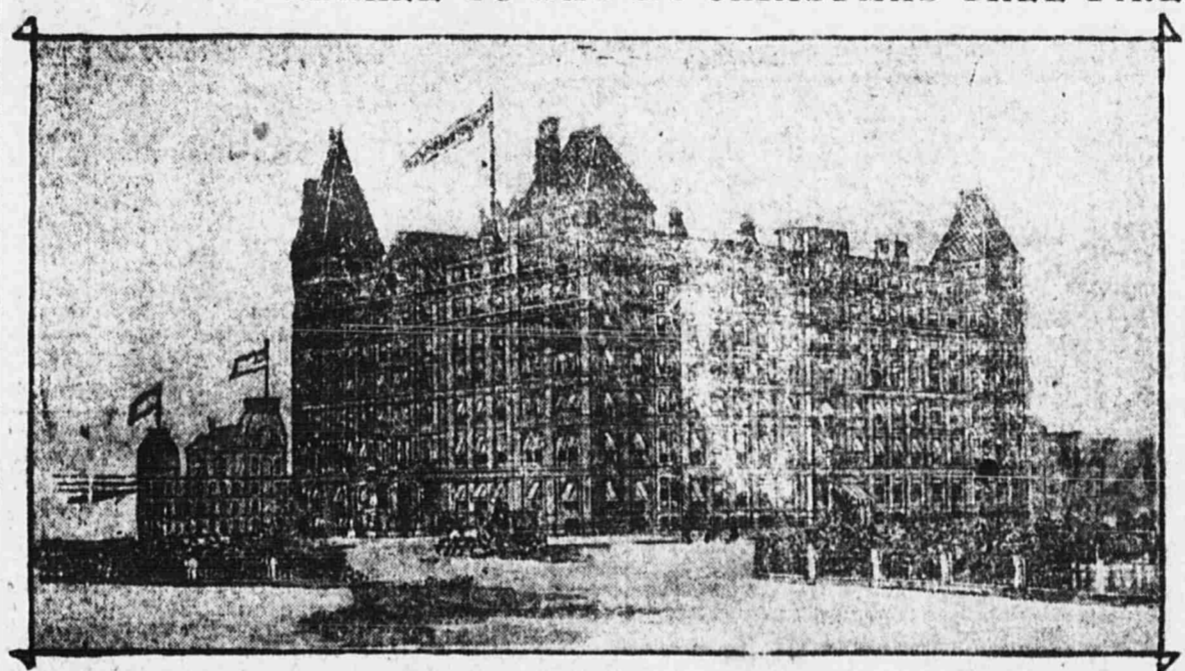
A big crowd gathered in City Hall to lend aid to the ceremony of transferring the Government. Capt. Stephen O'Brien, with fifty policemen, formed a line around the City Hall and admitted through the iron gates only those possessed of invitations. With the members of the outgoing and incoming administrations and the invited guests the corridors and rooms in which the transfer took place were jammed long before the hour of noon.

The first act of the reorganized administration to reach City Hall was James B. Reynolds, former Mayor Low's secretary. Mr. Reynolds appeared to be sad. He had mapped out many reforms in the push-cart business that will have to go unaccomplished. Mr. Reynolds was followed to the City Hall by the former Mayor and his personal secretary, Mr. Beebe. The retiring Mayor wore a frock coat, a silk hat and a broad smile. Any feeling of sadness he may have felt was effectually smothered. As he passed down the corridors he turned to Mr. Beebe and asked him if he did not think the decorations

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Children Take Part in Race. A group of children took part in the race. The children were very happy and enjoyed the race very much.

MURRAY HILL HOTEL, WHICH WAS SET ABLAZE TO-DAY BY CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE.



SPECIAL EXTRA.

PATROL WAGON IN RUNAWAY; DRIVER HURT

While answering a call from Eighth avenue and One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street the horses of a patrol wagon from the One Hundred and Fifty-second street station ran away.

At One Hundred and Fifty-second street and St. Nicholas place the horses ran into a tree, upsetting the wagon.

Thomas Kane, the driver, was thrown to the street, sustaining injuries to his right leg, head and face. He was taken to the J. Hood Wright Hospital.

Louis Hilderstein, also on the wagon, was thrown out, but was not injured.

LATE RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

Third Race—Morningstar 1, Frank Bell 2, Hands Across 3. Fourth Race—Exclamation 1, Aggie Lewis 2, Wreath of Ivy.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS DRIVEN FROM HOTEL DURING FIRE.

During the fire in the Murray Hill Hotel this afternoon six suspicious characters were ejected from the upper floors by detectives. No arrests were made.

RUSSIA INVITES WAR BY REFUSING JAPAN'S TERMS

Clash in the Far East Now Regarded as Certain and Diplomats Join Mikado's Minister in Opinion That Crisis Has Been Reached.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister here, has received the gravest news on the Russian reply to the Japanese proposals. Stripped of its diplomatic verbiage, it is said to be nothing more nor less than a sweeping rejection of them all.

Advance news of the Russian reply has been looked for through Paris sources, and Baron Hayashi, most conservative of Japanese statesmen, admits with a show of concern that he has heard from the French capital that Russia will refuse all proposals in the Japanese note and that he regards the situation as very grave.

Baron Hayashi, commenting on the news he has received, said to-day: "If the information I have from France is borne out by the wording of the Russian reply, and if the Japanese Government adheres to its present determination, there seems to be small possibility of averting war."

"My information from Paris," said the Minister of Japan, "is not official; but, in connection with information imparted to me by the British Government, is probably only too correct."

"If Chancellor von Buelow's statement that Russia's reply will be framed in a manner intended to satisfy Japan turns out correct, it will be better news than I have dared to hope for."

The British Foreign Office is unable to confirm or deny Baron Hayashi's information. The officials, however, say they are not surprised at the tenor of his advice.

The Foreign Office seems inclined to think that Russia will, if possible, avoid making a reply of any kind to the last Japanese note.

Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has informed one of the foreign ambassadors that he has practically given up all hopes of peace.

NO GRAFTING, SAYS M'ADOO

New Police Commissioner Declares the Honesty and Efficiency of the Force Depend on the Individual Policeman.

"No grafting" is the motto that Police Commissioner William McAdoo (figuratively speaking) hung upon the wall of his office when Gen. Greene turned over his desk to him to-day. This is what he said to the fifteen inspectors and eighty captains who had assembled to meet him:

"The honesty and efficiency of the force depend upon the individual policemen. To secure the best result the police force must be honest. I will do everything in my power to prevent blackmailing, extortion and grafting or bribe-taking by the police."

"It would be useless, however, to expect a policeman to be honest if he has to pay for his appointment, promotion or assignment. Therefore, preferment will rest on merit only, judged by the best service standard. The administration will bear constantly in mind the fact that the police force is a semi-military body, upon whose efficiency and integrity depend life, property, law and order."

Greene Grooms Successors.

It was just 1 o'clock when the new Police Commissioner reached Headquarters. At 1:15 Commissioner Greene came in and shook hands with his successor. There were also present Ex-Deputies Piper and Davis, and Thomas McAvoy and John P. Cowan, the two new appointees, besides Chrystie and Florrie Sullivan, Isaac Cohn and Ex-Registrar Isaac Fromma.

All around the room were floral tributes, the most prominent being a pile eight feet high from letter carriers. Commissioner McAdoo was accompanied by his secretary, William Howell. They had met in the Philippines, but McAdoo had forgotten the incident. Until to-day he had never met his two deputies. They were presented to him, and he said to each: "I am very glad to have you with me."

McAdoo Gets Badge of Office.

Gen. Greene said in turning over his badge and those of his deputies: "Mr. McAdoo, I take great pleasure in turning over to you the badge of the Police Commissioner."

"Your high character and varied experience in public life give ample proof of your fitness to conduct this difficult office and in the conduct of which I wish you hearty success."

Mr. McAdoo thanked his predecessor and congratulated him on his administration of the office. As he handed over the badge Mr. McAdoo said:

"Has Einstein resigned?" "Yes," Gen. Greene replied.

"I am sorry for that," Mr. McAdoo said. "I had hoped that he would stay with me temporarily. The situation is so complicated now that I don't know what to do. Had I known that he had resigned I would have asked him to remain with me temporarily."

The new Commissioner didn't know Cowan or McAvoy. After setting out the duties of the deputies to the inspectors by Inspector Cortright. Then it came the turn of the deputies to meet the inspectors.

Inspector Max Schmittberger refused to shake McAvoy's hand. He ran out it is a sad blow to Schmittberger to have McAvoy over him.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Saturday for New York City and vicinity: Partly cloudy and colder to-night. Saturday increasing cloudiness; fresh west to north-west winds.

No Poisonous Drugs. Father John's Medicine cures asthma.

200 MADE WILD DASH FOR DOORS OF DINING-ROOM

They Were Told When the First Engine Arrived that the Fire Was in a Neighboring Hotel, but When the Smoke and Water Poured In They Were Seized with Panic.

WOMEN SERVANTS LEAP FROM ROOF 20 FEET TO FIRE-ESCAPE.

The Blaze Started in the Room of a Guest on the Sixth Floor, but Its Exact Cause Is Not Known—Hotel Employees and Firemen Vigilant.

A stubborn fire on the top floors of then northeast corner of the Murray Hill Hotel, in Park avenue between Fortieth and Forty-first streets, this afternoon, caused that portion of the hotel to be emptied of guests and created a panic.

The excellent precautions that had been taken against just such a calamity and the judicious handling of the frightened guests by the employees and the firemen prevented dangerous disorder and possible loss of life.

A woman suffering from pneumonia, who was carried out through the smoke, may not recover from the shock and exposure. Mrs. Le Clair Jacques, wife of the son of Proprietor W. L. Jacques, ran through the smoke with her three-year-old boy wrapped in blankets and got him safely to a room in another quarter of the building. The little fellow is ill, but his physician says that his experience had no bad effects.

The fire started in Room No. 685, occupied by a guest whose name is kept secret by the hotel people. The apartments of Mr. Jacques and his son are in suites near this room. The flames spread to their suites and gutted them. Then the fire spread to the upper floors and out through the roof. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

PANIC IN THE DINING-ROOM.

Two hundred men and women were in the big dining-room when the first engines arrived. They were assured that the fire was in the Grand Union Hotel. But a few minutes later, when the water from above and the dense black smoke commenced to pour into the dining-room, several women, who had first seen it, screamed, and there was a panic.

In the mad rush for the door it appeared that many must be crushed, but the head waiter caught and held those who tried to pass him and in that way he and the waiters prevented the jamming at the door. Amid much screaming and the greatest excitement all got out. They were taken to other hotels in the vicinity.

Two servant girls were cut off by the flames. They made their way to the roof, hung over the edge on the Forty-first street side and jumped to the fire-escape landing, twenty feet below. A little out of the way and they would have been dashed to the street. The women were Sadie Carney and Mary O'Brien.

When the firemen arrived in answer to the first alarm they were asked by the hotel proprietor to extinguish the blaze with as little confusion as possible and went about it leisurely. The blaze proved to be hard to get at and a second alarm was sent in.

Ladders were run up to the fire-escape and a line of hose was dragged to the sixth floor. As soon as the water was turned on the hose broke. Before another line could be run up the flames had eaten through the roof and the blaze had assumed dangerous proportions.

GUESTS FLED FROM THEIR ROOMS.

Then a third alarm was sent in and lines of hose were run up through the building. Guests on the north side gathered their effects and got out. The fire started in the northeast corner of the building and a back draught forced the smoke through all the halls, causing a panic. Several aged ladies were assisted to the office.

Mrs. Coyle, a guest, near to the point of death with pneumonia, was wrapped in blankets and carried from her room during the fire. Because of the danger of the spread of the flames she was not placed in another room, but conveyed to a carriage in the street. Her daughter, who assisted in her removal, said that she did not think the patient would recover from the shock and exposure.

Fire Commissioner Hayes and his secretary, Al. Downes, reached the hotel just after the third alarm was turned in and investigated the fire apparatus. William T. Biggen, chief of the Apparatus Bureau of the Fire Department, was on the scene also.

Fearing that the hotel would be looted during the excitement by thieves which haunt the Grand Central Station, a half block from the Murray Hill, detectives were quickly placed in spots in the hotel where the smoke was not too dense to guard the great amount of property which was left behind by the fleeing guests.

The strong wind swept the flames back under the eaves and through the space under the roof to the interior of the hotel. Detectives and others, who had been on guard in various parts of the hotel, were driven from their posts.

The fire was not under control until 4 o'clock. At that hour the volume of smoke was still heavy, but the flames had been subdued, save in the rafters of the roof of the wing at the northeast corner.